

Serial No.: 10/605,937
Art Unit: 3747
Examiner: KAMEN, Noah P.
Page 5 of 8

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 10, and 17 have been amended. Claims 25 and 26 were previously canceled. No claims have been added.

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 3-5 have been amended to provide clearer antecedent basis. Support for these claims as amended may be found in paragraph [0022].

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 14-17, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusche et al. (6,652,334).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the flywheel has "a hub for mounting the flywheel to a crankshaft of an engine". Claims 10 and 17 have both been amended to recite that the flywheel has "an opening for mounting to a crankshaft of an engine". This has been made pursuant to a suggestion made by the Examiner in the Office Action. Inner member 60 of Kusche et al. does not have such a hub/opening. Therefore, claims 1, 10, and 17 are now believed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 14-16, and 20-23 recite additional features of the invention and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons recited above with respect to their respective base claims and for the additional features recited therein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 11, 12, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusche et al.

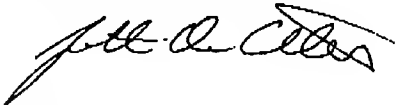
Dependent claims 4, 11, 12, and 19 recite additional features of the invention and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons recited above with respect to their respective base claims and for the additional features recited therein.

Serial No.: 10/605,937
Art Unit: 3747
Examiner: KAMEN, Noah P.
Page 6 of 6

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-24 are now allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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